

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-01

AID-05 IO-10 OMB-01 /071 W
----- 087570

R 180830Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6622

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 2010

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ID

SUBJ: ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE ON JANUARY 15

DETAINEE RELEASES AND RETENTIONS

REF: A. JAKARTA 1519 B. JAKARTA 15384

1. IN FIRST PUBLIC COMMENTARY ON LATEST DETAINEE RELEASES (REF A), SPOKESMAN FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE FEB 15 IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM INDEPENDENT EVENING DAILY SINAR HARAPAN CONFIRMED RELEASE FEB 3 OF FAHMI IDRIS AND IMAM WALUJO. (SINAR ARTICLE ALSO CITED "INFORMATION" THAT PERENNIAL YOUTH ACTIVISTS JULIUS USMAN AND BOETJE ALSO RELEASED AT ABOUT SAME TIME, BRINGING TOTAL OF KNOWN RELEASES TO 11.) A G SPOKESMAN FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT OTHER DETAINEES WHOSE ONE YEAR DETENTION PERIODS HAD EXPIRED COULD BE "RE-DETAINED" TO PERMIT FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

2. COMMENT: SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT IS FIRST OFFICIAL GOI EXPLANATION OF BASIS FOR CONTINUED DETENTION OF REMAINING UNTRIED JANUARY 15 DETAINEES. AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED (REF B), LACK OF SPECIFICITY IN LAW AS TO MAXIMUM
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PERMISSIBLE NUMBER OF SUCCESSIVE ONE-YEAR DETENTION

PERIODS HAS LEFT THIS AVENUE OPEN TO GOVERNMENT, BUT
PROBABLY FOR PUBLIC IMAGE REASONS GOI HAD APPEARED
HESITANT TO UTILIZE THIS OBVIOUS TECHNICALITY EVEN AFTER
ONE YEAR DEADLINE HAD EXPIRED FOR MANY DETAINEES. ONE
REPORT FROM DETAINEE FAMILY SOURCES INDICATED SECURITY
AUTHORITIES AT ONE POINT ASKED SOME DETAINEES TO SIGN
VOLUNTARY WAIVERS ALLOWING THEIR CONTINUED DETENTION--
AND THAT DETAINEES HAD POLITELY DECLINED TO SIGN.
PRESUMABLY PASSAGE OF TIME--AND REPORTERS' QUESTIONS--
HAVE NOW FORCED GOVERNMENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE DISREGARDING
SPIRIT OF DETENTION LAW AND TO RESORT TO ESSENTIALLY
LAME "RE-DETENTION" ARGUMENT. NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART02010
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750058-0436
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750236/aaaabgao.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 JAKARTA 1519, 75 JAKARTA 15384
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE ON JANUARY 15 DETAINEE RELEASES AND RETENTIONS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ID, (FAHMI IDRIS), (IMAM WALUJU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006